



Volunteers in Parks Program

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

List of Identified Needs

*Are you interested in a 12-week Volunteer Internship?
If so, please contact VIP Coordinator, Dana Soehn,
for a list of our 2012 Internship Opportunities.*

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
At least one 10 hour day May - Oct	Parkwide NC & TN projects based on greatest need	Trails Forever Program: A partnership between Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Friends of the Smokies to complete trail rehabilitation projects in the Park. Required: Volunteers must commit to at least one 10 hour workday, be able to hike a minimum of 4 miles, use hand tools (shovels, fire rakes, pulaskis, sledgehammers) and provide personal gear for the day (water, food, rain gear, appropriate clothing, boots). Duties: Volunteers perform a wide range of trail maintenance and trail re-construction while working alongside a Park Trail Crew. These projects include but are not limited to installing drainage structures, rehabilitating trail surfaces, constructing staircases, and removing vegetation. Contact Christine Hoyer for the schedule of workdays.	Christine Hoyer Trails Volunteer Coordinator 828-497-1949 christine_hoyer@nps.gov
~ 8 hours per month Mar-Oct	Parkwide;	Adopt-A-Campsite Program: The Park has more than 89 backcountry campsites and these sites need consistent maintenance to ensure that visitors have a positive experience and the Park's resources are protected. Required: Must be capable of hiking, enjoy being in the backcountry, and enjoy interacting with visitors. Duties: Requires a commitment to hike to adopted campsite a min. of 5 times/year to clean out fire rings, remove litter/garbage, perform site maintenance, inspect bear cable systems, and educate hikers/campers in proper food storage and Leave No Trace ethics. Volunteers are able to camp at their adopted site (with a permit) but this program does NOT require that you camp at the site you maintain, all work can be done with a day-trip. Desired: Knowledge of basic backcountry campsite maintenance procedures, food storage techniques, and knowledge of Leave No Trace ethics.	Christine Hoyer Trails Volunteer Coordinator 828-497-1949 christine_hoyer@nps.gov
~ 8 hours per month Mar-Oct	Parkwide;	Adopt-A-Trail Program: The Park has 848 miles of maintained trail in the Park and the information that adopters provide is critical to ensuring that the Park trails remain accessible for our visitors and the Park's resources are protected. Required: Must be capable of hiking, enjoy being in the backcountry, and enjoy interacting with visitors. Duties: Requires a commitment to hike adopted trails a min. of 5 times/year to report trail conditions, blowdowns, and any other hazards. Volunteers will also provide hikers with information and promote Leave No Trace ethics. Desired: Knowledge of hiking in the Smokies, ability and interest in taking photos of blowdowns and other trail issues, and knowledge of Leave No Trace ethics.	Christine Hoyer Trails Volunteer Coordinator 828-497-1949 christine_hoyer@nps.gov

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
1-2 hours, monthly Mar-Nov	Varied (TN)	<u>Adopt-A-Vista Program:</u> Required: Must be in good physical condition and capable of walking up/down uneven and sometimes steep terrain; requires commitment to visit vista min. 6 times/year. Desired: Remove litter and garbage from parking area and surrounding vegetation; perform brushing of new growth of small vegetation to keep view open; clear debris from parking area; and complete a work report for each visit.	Mark Schotters North District Roads Foreman 865-436-1282
4-8 hours weekly year-round	Parkwide	<u>Adopt-a-Cabin:</u> Help clean out and keep clean adopted historic structures throughout the Park. Volunteers are needed to sweep out, pick up litter, and to diminish removable graffiti using approved techniques. In addition, adopters will report any issues (broken boards, safety issues) to the Historic Preservation Crew.	Dana Soehn Volunteer Coordinator 865-436-1265 dana_soehn@nps.gov
1-2 hours, monthly year-round	Gatlinburg Spur (between Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge)	<u>Adopt-A-Spur Program:</u> A community partnership roadside litter patrol on an assigned section of the Spur. Required: Volunteers must be 18 years of age and older due to roadside safety concerns on this busy roadway. Ability to walk over uneven terrain and carry light loads.	Dana Soehn Volunteer Coordinator 865-436-1265 dana_soehn@nps.gov
1-2 hours, monthly year-round	Lakeview Drive (NC)	<u>Adopt-Lakeview Drive Program:</u> A community partnership roadside litter patrol on the Lakeview Drive north of Bryson City, NC. Required: Volunteers must be 18 years of age and older due to roadside safety concerns on this busy roadway. Ability to walk over uneven terrain and carry light loads.	John Bowers South District Roads Foreman 828-497-1938 john_bowers@nps.gov
32 hours per week RV Site with full hooks provided	Cades Cove Elkmont Oconaluftee	<u>Roadside Assistant Volunteers:</u> Volunteers work in teams of 2 (generally married couples) to provide roadside assistance. At least one team member MUST have prior law enforcement experience which allows for better recognition of hazards that should be avoided and passed along to park rangers. Duties: Couples drive a courtesy patrol vehicle that is clearly identified as a 'non-law enforcement vehicle'. Volunteers assist in traffic control, provide minor roadside assistance (fluids, battery jump starts, unlock vehicles), perform campground patrols to look for food storage violations, and provide visitors with information and directions.	Jason Marsh Park Ranger jason_marshall@nps.gov Carmen Barnard Park Ranger carmen_barnard@nps.gov
4 - 8 hour shifts October	Cades Cove	<u>Bicycle Patrol:</u> Required: Ability to meet and deal with the public in a positive, friendly and helpful manner. Must be physically fit with the ability to ride a bicycle for extended periods of time. Personally owned bicycle and helmet are required. Desired: EMS (First Aid/CPR) training, Interest in Law Enforcement or Wildlife Management Duties: Provide general information to park visitors concerning bicycle safety, park regulations, wildlife viewing guidelines, and natural and cultural resources. Regularly inform Park Rangers of visitor issues through radio communication. Provide assistance to Park Ranger staff during emergency situations. Perform routine traffic management duties. Manage public use relating to wildlife viewing, bike closure, special events and other special needs.	Jamie Sanders Cades Cove Park Ranger 865- 448-4106

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
Saturdays 4-6 hours Bimonthly	Parkwide	<u>Water Quality Data Collection:</u> Volunteer will collect base flow water quality sampling from select park watersheds. Required: Any age individuals with ability to hike short distances (<1 mile). Participants less than 18 years old must have an adult legal guardian. Duties: This is an ongoing effort to collect water samples from select park streams in order to monitor stream water chemistry. This is one of the longest running monitoring efforts in GRSM, as well as the nation. Volunteers will be paired with volunteers from local Trout Unlimited Chapters who will train and lead the volunteers during their collections. Most collections are made on Saturdays and require roughly 4-6 hours.	Charlie Chmielewski Trout Unlimited Project Coordinator 865-986-1171 (h) 856-661-7325 (c) cchm@charter.net Matt Kulp Fisheries Biologist 865-436-1254
Flexible	Parkwide	<u>Roving Angler Surveys:</u> Volunteer will survey anglers to assess fish catch and harvest rates. Current Project. Required: Participants must 18 years or older and have a valid state drivers license. Duties: This is an ongoing effort to supplement the angler surveys conducted by GRSM Law Enforcement Rangers and fisheries staff. The Park will provide a vehicle and the volunteer will drive and walk roads and trails along GRSM streams looking for anglers to interview. Anglers are asked a brief series of questions regarding where they are from, how long they have been fishing and what they have caught. Once completed, the volunteer may assist the fishery biologist with entry of angler creel survey data into Microsoft Access database.	Matt Kulp Fisheries Biologist 865-436-1254 matt_kulp@nps.gov
Flexible intermittent	Parkwide	<u>Assisting the ATBI (All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory):</u> Required: Volunteer seeking to work in a fun, friendly, small work environment. Volunteer will contribute to the largest "science project" in the Smokies, gain new job skills/maintain existing job skills, meet Park personnel, local business owners, scientists from across the country, and make new friends. Duties: Volunteers work in 5 main areas: Fieldwork; Clerical; Education/Outreach; Special Events/Fundraising; and/or Computer/Technical. For more information on the opportunities available in each category; please contact us. Also see www.dlia.org/volunteer-job-descriptions .	Todd Witcher Discover Life in America Heather MacCulloch Volunteer Coordinator Discover Life In America (865) 430-4756 heather@dlia.org
Mon-Thu 8:00 – 5:00 Jan-Mar: Greenhouse Apr-May: Spring Planting	Twin Creeks Greenhouse (TN)	<u>Greenhouse Assistant (Native Plant Propagation):</u> Required: No experience needed, but attention to detail and patience necessary. Duties: Sowing and transplanting seedlings for Park restoration and revegetation projects. Can work sitting or standing at potting bench in greenhouse. Optional: Plant seedlings in early Spring throughout the Park – primarily Cades Cove.	Kris Johnson Vegetation Specialist 865-436-1707 kristine_johnson@nps.gov

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
2 – 4 hours monthly April – September	Parkwide- campgrounds, picnic areas and roadside locations	<p><u>Adopt a Trap Program:</u> Invasive tree damaging insects are headed for the park. Gypsy moth and emerald ash borer beetle monitoring traps need to be checked monthly. Traps are in campgrounds, picnic areas and along park roads.</p> <p>Required: Transportation to your assigned trap(s), interest in insects, attention to detail, with provided training- ability to identify markings/characteristics of gypsy moth and/or emerald ash borer beetle</p> <p>Duties: Volunteers drive to either gypsy moth and/or emerald ash borer traps and check for presence of the insect(s) on previously placed sticky traps. Gypsy moth traps are mounted on trees at eye level and require a look inside; emerald ash borer traps require removal from a tree branch for monthly inspection and replacement of the lure (once per season). Record trap visit information on data sheet.</p>	<p>Glenn Taylor Biologist Great Smoky Mountains National Park 107 Park Headquarters Road Gatlinburg, TN 37738 865-430-4748</p>
Flexible mid-March through October, spring most important. Need commitment for several different weeks.	Purchase Knob Tremont Twin Creeks Oconaluftee	<p><u>Adopt-a-Phenology-Plot:</u> The park is using volunteers to assist with monitoring the timing of plant blooming and tree leaf-out. Required: Ability to identify some common plant species and possibly other natural history skills; moderate walking short distances over trails or uneven ground. Duties: VIP visits plots to count number of blossoms of different species within established plots, and rate the growth state of 20 trees. Data entry helpful. Some opportunity to explore adding new types of phenology to monitor, such as bird and caterpillar activity. To complete all plots at the site takes about 4 hours, plus travel to and from Purchase Knob. Ideally can commit to 1x per week or every other week for several consecutive weeks.</p>	<p>Paul Super Science Coordinator Purchase Knob 828-926-6251 paul_super@nps.gov</p>
Mon-Thu 8:00 – 5:00 Mar-Oct: Scouting Oct-Mar: Spraying	Parkwide	<p><u>Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Control:</u> Required: Must be 18 years or older and in good physical condition (duties vary according to skill and fitness level). Duties: (1)Chemical control of HWA with systemic insecticide treatments. <u>Arduous activity that requires training. Must commit to a schedule;</u> identify HWA infested areas and plot location utilizing GPS and topographic maps. (2) Assist HWA crew with spraying along roadsides, heavily-visited and developed areas with insecticidal soap using high-pressure spray equipment. Oconaluftee and Gatlinburg locations.</p>	<p>Jesse Webster Forestry Technician 865-436-1730 jesse_webster@nps.gov</p>
Variable	Parkwide And in local communities	<p><u>Outreach Programmer:</u> Required: Ability to communicate with the public, learn about the Park's natural and cultural resources, and communicate orally and conduct a thematic program. Training involves one-year as special program interpreter; limited team space available. Desired: Past experience in presenting thematic interpretative style programs; personal knowledge of the natural and cultural history of the Park.</p> <p>Duties: Present assigned Outreach programs.</p>	<p>Brad Free North District Resource Education 865-436-1260 brad_free@nps.gov</p>

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Contact
32 hours per week, one month minimum time requirement to qualify for lodging; other options negotiable	Mountain Farm Museum, Oconaluftee (NC)	<u>Cultural Resources Interpreter:</u> Required: Ability to communicate and work well with the public and learn Park and Southern Appalachian cultural history. Desired: Past experience in costumed interpretative demonstrations; extensive knowledge of historical farming practices in the So. Appalachians. Duties: Interpret cultural history to 2,000 visitors/day in period clothing or VIP uniform; ranges from opening/closing museum to general house-keeping and feeding livestock; demonstrations include domestic skills, farming blacksmithing, etc.	Florie Takaki South District Resource Education 828-497-1906 florie_takaki@nps.gov
4 hours per week	Oconaluftee River Trail, Mountain Farm Museum, and fields along Hwy 441	<u>Luftee Rover:</u> Required: Ability to communicate with the public and stand/walk for 4-hour periods outside. Desired: Personal knowledge of natural and cultural history of the Park. Duties: Participant will rove Oconaluftee Area including the Oconaluftee River Trail, Mountain Farm Museum, and fields along Hwy 441. Participant will provide information to visitors regarding various park regulations including littering, disturbing wildlife, and approaching wildlife. When elk are present in the fields, participant will primarily aid in traffic management. Participants will work a 4 hour evening shift.	Florie Takaki South District Resource Education 828-497-1906 florie_takaki@nps.gov
4-8 hours per week	Sugarlands Visitor Center, Cades Cove Visitor Center, Oconaluftee Visitor Center, Clingman's Dome Contact Station, Gatlinburg Welcome Center	<u>Information Assistant:</u> Required: Ability to communicate and work with the public, learn the Park's cultural history, and read maps and give directions. Desired: Previous experience in working an information desk; personal know-ledge of natural and cultural history of the Park; knowledge of Park road and trail systems and flora and fauna; and ability to stand for most of 4-hour day and lift small packages. Duties: Provide information to visitors on one-to-one or group basis to facilitate a safe, informed visit.	Brad Free Sugarlands Visitor Center 865-436-1260 Lisa Free Cades Cove Visitor Center 865-448-4104 Florie Takaki Oconaluftee Visitor Center Clingmans Dome Contact Str 828-497-1260 Alice Kellog Gatlinburg Welcome Center 865-430-3112
seasonal and negotiable	Sugarlands Visitor Center (TN) Oconaluftee Visitor Center (NC)	<u>Native Plants Gardener:</u> Required: Knowledge of plant identification and gardening techniques with native and non-native plants. Desired: Experience with horticulture and/or landscaping, especially with native plants; ability to perform moderate physical labor. Duties: Assist vegetation management technicians with planting, weeding, and maintenance of native plant garden; may also assist with other landscaping and vegetation projects as interested.	Brad Free North District 865-436-1260 Florie Takaki South District 828-497-1260
32 hours per week May-Nov RV Site with full hookups provided	Cades Cove, TN	<u>Litter Patrol & Maintenance Assistant:</u> Required: Valid driver's license. Duties: Assist in litter patrol on Loop Road, cleaning historic buildings, painting, building repair, office assistance, custodial services in administration buildings, and raking/pruning/pick-up in campground.	Dale Brukiewa Cades Cove Roads Foreman 865-436-1276 dale_brukiewa@nps.gov



Volunteers in Parks Program

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

2012 Group Projects

*As with all outdoor activities, these types of projects may be weather dependent.

Time Requirements	Location	Project Need	Lodging	Contact
8-hour minimum 40 hours/person minimum to qualify for group campsite	Widely scattered locations; mostly in NC; some areas require hiking in	<u>Exotic Vegetation Control:</u> Required: No special skills are required. We prefer that volunteers be 12 years or older. Some projects involve hand pulling, i.e. no tools, but require the ability to discern target plants. Duties: Work consists of manually removing various species of exotic vegetation, e. g. privet, multiflora rose, etc. and is labor intensive and uses simple hand tools such as pruners, machetes, or safety axes. Cut vegetation is manually hauled to a central location for burning, composting or removal by truck.	A group campsite can be provided; no other lodging is available	Kris Johnson Vegetation Specialist 865-436-1707 kristine_johnson@nps.gov
8-hour minimum	Field locations, Parkwide	<u>Seed Collection:</u> Required: No required skills. Desired: Knowledge of plant and tree identification. Duties: Collect a variety of native plant and tree seeds. Seeds will be processed by the SCS, germinated, and returned to the Park as seedlings for re-vegetation projects. Adult supervision required -- may require use of small step ladders. Timing is critical -- this work must be performed in the 1-3 weeks when seeds are present. Time period varies with plant species.	none	Kris Johnson Vegetation Specialist 865-436-1707 kristine_johnson@nps.gov
1-2 hours, monthly year-round	Gatlinburg Spur (between Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge)	<u>Adopt-A-Spur Program:</u> A community partnership roadside litter patrol on an assigned section of the Spur, ranging from .3 to 1 mile in length. Required: Volunteers must be 18 years of age or accompanied by 1 adult per 6 students due to roadside safety concerns on this busy roadway. Ability to walk over uneven terrain and carry light loads.	none	Dana Soehn Volunteer Coordinator 865-436-1265 dana_soehn@nps.gov

8-hour minimum	Cades Cove	<p><u>Barbwire Fence Removal:</u> Volunteers would use hand tools to remove unneeded barbwire fencing that detracts from the historical scene, impedes the natural flow of wildlife through the valley, and interferes with personnel and equipment transport/operations during prescribed burning operations.</p> <p>Required: Volunteers must wear long pants, long sleeves, sun protection, and be able to handle small rolls of barbwire. Leather gloves will be provided.</p>	none	Dana Soehn Volunteer Coordinator 865-436-1265 dana_soehn@nps.gov
At least one 10 hour day May – Oct	Parkwide; project location based on greatest Park need	<p>Trails Forever Program: A partnership between Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Friends of the Smokies to complete trail rehabilitation projects in the Park. Required: Volunteers must commit to at least one 10 hour workday, be able to hike a minimum of 4 miles, use hand tools (shovels, fire rakes, pulaskis, sledgehammers) and provide personal gear for the day (water, food, rain gear, appropriate clothing, boots). Duties: Volunteers perform a wide range of trail maintenance and trail re-construction while working alongside a Park Trail Crew. These projects include but are not limited to installing drainage structures, rehabilitating trail surfaces, constructing staircases, and removing vegetation. Contact Christine Hoyer for the schedule of workdays.</p>	A group campsite can be provided; no other lodging is available	Christine Hoyer Trails Volunteer Coordinator 828-497-1949 christine_hoyer@nps.gov
2-hour minimum	Parkwide	<p><u>Roadside, Overlook & Picnic Area Litter Removal:</u> Required: No skills required. Desired: Ability to walk over uneven terrain (some steep) and carry light loads. Work can be accomplished by young volunteers, but age 8 years and older preferred due to roadside safety concerns.</p>	none	<p>Mark Schotters North District Roads Foreman 865-436-1282</p> <p>John Bowers South District Roads Foreman 828-497-1938 john_bowers@nps.gov</p>

NOTE: VIP group projects help meet needs due to understaffing and budget constraints. Limited availability of Park staff for project prep/supervision requires a firm commitment to project date. Participation from groups for one-time service projects requires personal commitment from leaders and participants.

It is important to:

- (1) select a project suitable to your group's age, skills and abilities;
- (2) be on time; and
- (3) be properly prepared for the work to be done (appropriate clothing, food and water, and personal needs).